

ARC Gerontology Internship Advance Planning

For Students

What to Expect from Gerontology Faculty

Ideally, students meet with the ARC gerontology department chair in their first or second semester in the program. Working together, you will complete a Gerontology Program Progress Plan that optimizes the sequence of your coursework and work experience. This is especially important because the programs have been revised in recent years and if you need any course substitutions to graduate, the department chair will be the person to authorize any substitutions.

To request an appointment, fill out the form on the ARC Gerontology Department Student Resource page. The form asks questions about your availability for scheduling the meeting and questions that will help the department chair prepare for the meeting. Be prepared to upload a copy of your unofficial transcripts from all Los Rios colleges and any other transcripts that may have transferable courses when you complete the form.

Recommended Coursework Prep for GERON 498

Each employer can specify minimum qualifications for internship candidates. To be a competitive candidate when applying for an internship and prepare to interact with older clients, residents, and patients who are legally considered vulnerable, you are advised to complete some or all the following courses before enrolling in GERON 498:

- The ARC GERON 302/PSYC 374 Psychology of Aging: Adult Development and Aging
- The ARC GERON 303 Intro to Social Gerontology Course
- [Ageism First Aid](#) (a career education course offered by the Gerontological Society of America)
- First Aid & CPR (if you will be seeking an internship with geriatric health care experience)

When to Plan for Work Experience

Researching, contacting, interviewing, and securing a placement at an internship site should begin by mid-semester, the semester before you plan to take a unit of GERON 498. In recent years, during natural disasters and the pandemic shutdown, we also learned how important it is to plan your internship early in your coursework and avoid planning to take all three units of GERON 498 in your last semester before graduation.

Fall Semester Planning is done in the spring semester, rather than in the summer when many supervisors at internship sites are taking vacations and the gerontology department chair is unavailable.

Spring Semester Planning is done in the fall semester, rather than over winter break because many supervisors at sites where you apply will take time off during the holidays or be too busy to arrange for interviews. The gerontology department chair is also unavailable over winter break.

Summer Semester Planning is done in the spring semester when supervisors at sites and the department chair are likely to be available.

MORE RESOURCES

- Finding a Gerontology Internship (For Students)
- Gerontology Internship Site Requirements (for Employers)